

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15

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R 092140Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9405

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OTTAWA 1428

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, RP, CA

SUBJ: TRAIL OF AMERICAN WOMAN OF PHILIPPINE EXTRACTION

REF: STATE 084295

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED ON FRONT
PAGE OF APRIL 8 TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL:

BEGIN TEXT:

WASHINGTON - THE CASE OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY OFFICIAL
WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM CANADA LAST YEAR HAS ENDED WITH THE
CONVICTION OF A WOMAN IN A COURT IN VERMONT.

THE CASE INVOLVES AN INVESTIGATIVE TRAIL THAT LED
FROM OTTAWA TO MONTREAL TO THE ISOLATED BORDER CROSSING
AT HIGHGATE SPRINGS, VT.

THERE, ON THE MORNING OF EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 30 LAST
YEAR, THE WOMAN WAS APPREHENDED BY US CUSTOMS PERSONNEL
WITH A PACKAGE OF MONEY THAT HAD COME FROM THE EMBASSY
OFFICIAL TO HELP IN FINANCING SUBVERSIVE GROUPS IN
THE PHILIPPINES.

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PIECES OF THE PUZZLE HAVE BEEN LEAKED PERIODICALLY

BY SOURCES IN VARIOUS US GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH PARTS OF THE STORY.

THOSE PIECES CAME TOGETHER IN A US FEDERAL COURT IN BURLINGTON, VT., WHEN MRS. DELIA AGUILAR SAN JUAN WAS CONVICTED BY A JURY OF ILLEGALLY BRINGING INTO THE UNITED STATES "MONETARY INSTRUMENTS"--TO THE VALUE OF \$77,500 IN \$100 BILLS--AND FAILING TO REPORT THEM.

SHE HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO THE CHARGES OF VIOLATING THE US CURRENCY ACT.

THE ACT SAYS ANY AMOUNT OVER \$5,000 TAKEN INTO THE UNITED STATES MUST BE DECLARED. THE JUDGE HAS ORDERED A PRE-SENTENCE REPORT AND MRS. SAN JUAN IS EXPECTED TO BE SENTENCED IN JUNE.

THE CHINESE OFFICIAL, KUO CHING-AN, HAD BEEN INFORMATION OFFICER AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN OTTAWA AND WAS ASKED LAST APRIL BY THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO LEAVE CANADA FOR "ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS STATUS AS A DIPLOMAT."

HE HAD BEEN PASSING MONEY TO COURIERS, BASED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO WERE TAKING IT BACK ACROSS THE BORDER AND CHANNELLING IT TO THE PHILIPPINES.

MRS. SAN JUAN, A US CITIZEN OF FILIPINO EXTRACTION, WAS ONE OF THE COURIERS AND LETTERS THAT WERE IN HER POSSESSION WHEN SHE WAS CAUGHT SHOW THAT SHE HAD MADE THE TRIP TO CANADA PREVIOUSLY.

DURING HER BRIEF TRIP ACROSS THE BORDER, OFFICIALS SAY, MRS. SAN JUAN, A 37-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN WHO WORKS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, SPENT ONE NIGHT UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME IN THE HOLIDAY INN, OTTAWA, AND ONE NIGHT UNDER HER OWN NAME AT THE LAURENTIAN HOTEL IN MONTREAL.

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SHE WAS CARRYING RECIPITS FROM BOTH HOTELS WHEN SHE WAS SEARCHED AT THE BORDER.

ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 30, SHE BOARDED THE 8 O'CLOCK BUS IN MONTREAL ON THE WAY BACK TO HARTFORD, CONN (ONE-WAY FARE: \$23.95), WHICH IS THE CLOSEST POINT ON THE BUS ROUTE TO HER HOME AT MANSFIELD DEPOT, CONN.

SHE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE BUSES AT BURLINGTON. SHE WAS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER AT ABOUT 9:15 A.M. BY US CUSTOMS INSPECTORS, WHO, IT IS BELIEVED, WERE ACTING ON A TIP-OFF FROM THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE. THEY, IN TURN, HAD HAD MR. JUO UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

ASKED WHAT WAS IN THE PACKAGE SHE WAS CARRYING, MRS. SAN JUAN SAID IT CONTAINED BOOKS THAT SHE NEEDED FOR TEACHING.

WHEN THE PACKAGE WAS OPENED, REVEALING THE \$77,500 IN \$100 BILLS, SHE BECAME HYSTERICAL AND EXPLAINED LATER THAT SHE WAS AFRAID HER ACTIONS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO HER HUSBAND.

HER HUSBAND, EPIFANIO, WHO TEACHES ENGLISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, IS AN ALIEN AND IS WANTED IN THE PHILIPPINES.

IN HER PURSE, SHE WAS CARRYING TWO OPENED LETTERS THAT WERE ADDRESSED TO A BRYAN ABBOTT, A CODE NAME FOR MRS. SAN JUAN.

THEY WERE DATED MARCH 5 AND MARCH 7, 1975, AND BEGAN: "DEAR BRYAN," AND ENDED WITH THE CLOSING "SA REBOLUSYON," WHICH MEANS "TO THE REVOLUTION" IN THE TAGALOG DIALECT OF SPANISH SPOKEN IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE LETTERS WERE SIGNED WITH THE INITIALS J. B. THERE IS NO ADDRESS OR POSTMARK ON THE ENVELOPES, OR ANY INDICATION OF WHERE THEY CAME FROM. BUT THEY SHOW THAT THE COUIER OPERATION HAD BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR SOME TIME. THEY ALSO SUGGEST THAT EMBASSIES OTHER THAN THE

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CHINESE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PASSING MONEY TO THE PHILIPPINE SUBVERSIVES.

THE MARCH 5 LETTER SAYS: "WE ARE GLAD TO KNOW YOU MADE IT SAFELY LAST TIME. WE HOPE YOU'LL MAKE IT AGAIN THIS TIME.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 OTTAWA 1428

"OUR FRIENDS HERE (PRESUMABLY MR. KUO IN OTTAWA) COULD NOT PROVIDE US BIG DENOMINATIONS. SO HOW TO GO ABOUT IT, WE LEAVE IT UP TO YOU TO PICK UP A PART OR ALL OF THE AMOUNT LEFT THERE ACCORDING TO YOUR CONVENIENCE.

"WE ARE INFORMING AG ABOUT THIS PROBLEM IN OUR LETTER TO HIM AND WE EXPECT YOU'LL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIM WHAT TO DO NEXT." (AG IS NOT IDENTIFIED).

THE LETTER ALSO MAKES REFERENCE TO SEVEN OTHER ENVELOPES THAT MRS. SAN JUAN WAS TO RECEIVE, WHICH WERE TO BE GIVEN TO AG.

"PLEASE MANAGE TO DELIVER THESE TO HIM SAFELY AND SECRETLY. YOU MAY BIND THEM YOURSELF IN BOOKS COVERS. IN ORDER TO DO SO, YOU MAY OPEN THE ENVELOPES TO FACILITATE THE BINDING. THE LETTERS ARE SEALED.

"THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO SELDA IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE. BE SURE TO PROTECT IT WELL AND IN CASE YOU CANNOT SEND ALL THE LETTERS IN ONE BATCH, SEND THIS ONE FIRST.

"IT IS PREFERABLE, THOUGH, THAT ALL THE LETTERS ARE SEND (SIC) IN ONE BATCH."

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IN A BUSINESSLIKE WAY, THE LETTER ALSO TELLS MRS. SAN JUAN TO USE "PART OF THE AMOUNT YOU PICK UP THERE" FOR

TRAVEL EXPENSES, AND URGES: "DON'T FORGET TO ISSUE OUR FRIENDS THERE A RECEIPT OF HOW MUCH YOU WILL GET."

THE LETTER DATED MARCH 7 SAYS: "TODAY THE COMRADES BRIEFED US ABOUT THE TALKS YOU HAD WITH OUR FRIENDS IN CANADA.

"WE CONSIDER IT QUITE RISKY FOR YOU TO GO BACK HOME TO DELIVER PERSONALLY THE THINGS FOR AG.

"IT IS PREFERABLE THAT THESE THINGS BE HANDLED BY A RELIABLE PERSON, SUCH AS SONNY'S YOUNGER BROTHER (SONNY IS THE NICKNAME OF MRS. SAN JUAN'S HUSBAND) OR YOUR AMERICAN FRIEND.

"PLEASE CONSIDER THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING A LOT OF TRAVELLING LATELY, THAT YOU HAVE CALLED ON THE EMBASSIES A NUMBER OF TIMES AND THAT YOUR HUSBAND IS WELL-KNOWN IN THE US AND IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR HIS POLITICAL VIEWS AND ACTIVITIES.

"AND YOU YOURSELF ARE A SISTER OF MAYA, WHO IS A WANTED PERSON."

THE LETTERS GOES ON: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE COULD USE THE EMBASSY IN CANADA FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME ONLY. THE CANADIAN AND US INTELLIGENCE GROUPS ARE KEENLY WATCHING THEIR PLACE, WE WERE TOLD.

"IF THERE IS STILL SOME AMOUNT LEFT THERE AFTER THIS LAST TRIP OF YOURS, PLEASE AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM AG ON WHAT DO DO NEXT."

THE LETTER ALSO MAKES REFERENCE TO SENDING COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION PEKING REVIEW TO 'OUR COMRADES' IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"OUR FRIENDS SAY IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THEIR EMBASSY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADA TO MAIL THIS. WILL NOT THE ADDRESSEE IN THE PHILIPPINES BE EXPOSED AND THE ENEMY TRACE HER CONNECTIONS TO OUR UG COMRADES."

THE SAN JUAN FAMILY LIVES IN A SMALL, GREEN-PAINTED BUNGALOW ABOUT FIVE MILES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT CAMPUS.

A GLOBE AND MAIL REPORTER VISITED THE HOUSE YESTERDAY MORNING AS THE CHILDREN--A GIRL AGED ABOUT 10 AND A BOY

OF ABOUT 8--WERE LEAVING TO CATCH THE SCHOOL BUS.

THEY SAID THEIR FATHER WAS NOT HOME AND THAT THEIR MOTHER WAS ASLEEP.

RETURNING TO THE HOUSE AN HOUR LATER, THE REPORTER FOUND THAT MRS. SAN JUAN HAD LEFT IN THE FAMILY CAR.

SUBSEQUENTLY, MRS. SAN JUAN WAS APPROACHED IN HER SMALL OFFICE ON THE CAMPUS, WHERE SHE WORKS FOR THE FACULTY OF INNOVATIVE EDUCATION.

SHE IS PRETTY, ABOUT 5-FEET 5-INCHES TALL, HAS DARK EYES AND LONG BLACK HAIR, AND APPEARED EXTREMELY NERVOUS.

SHE WAS SHOWN A COPY OF THIS STORY, WAS TOLD IT WOULD BE APPEARING TODAY IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL, AND WAS INVITED TO COMMENT ON IT.

SHE READ ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH, HANDED IT BACK AND SAID: "I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY."

THAT WAS HER RESPONSE TO ALL SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING. IN A PREVIOUS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MRS. SAN JUAN HAD SAID SHE PLANS TO APPEAL HER CONVICTION.

THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE SHE FACES IS ONE YEAR IN JAIL OR A \$1,000 FINE OR BOTH. END TEXT.

ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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